

## CHAPTER 7

### FOREIGN DECORATIONS AND SERVICE AWARDS

#### A. INTRODUCTION

1. Section 7342, title 5, **U.S.C.** (reference (cc)) provides for employees of the U.S. Government, including members of the Armed Forces of the United States, to accept gifts or decorations from a foreign government under certain conditions. No employee of the Department of the Defense, however, may accept, request, or otherwise encourage the offer of a decoration from a foreign government. When possible, employees shall refuse to accept such decorations. Refer to DoD Directive 1005.13 (reference (old)) for the policies and procedures applicable to the acceptance of gifts from foreign governments.

2. Conforming to the consent of Congress, it is the policy of the Department of Defense that awards from foreign governments may be accepted only in recognition of active combat service or for outstanding or unusually meritorious performance. Activities normally undertaken by the Armed Forces of the United States in support of an ally during peacetime are not considered sufficient to merit foreign individual or unit decorations.

#### B. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. As used in this Chapter, the following terms apply:

a. **Decorations.** Any order, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem, or award tendered by or received from a foreign government. Although a foreign government may label or consider an item to be a decoration, that designation in itself does not mean the item shall be considered a decoration by the U.S. Government. The key factor is whether the item is similar in nature to individual decorations awarded by the U.S. Government.

b. **Employee.** Every member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a member of the family and household of any such person. For that explanation, “member of the family and household” means a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption who is a resident of the household.

c. **Employing Component.** The DoD Component in which the recipient is appointed, employed, or enlisted. If a recipient is not so serving, but is a spouse or dependent of a serving individual, then the employing DoD Component is that in which the serving individual is appointed, employed, or enlisted.

(1) The Military Departments are considered the employing DoD Component for all military and civilian personnel assigned to that Department. The Military Departments also act as the employing DoD Component for all personnel, military and civilian, either directly employed or assigned to the Headquarters of the Unified Combatant Commands.

(2) The OSD is the employing DoD Component for its military and civilian personnel and those of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the DARPA, the DSAA, Service members assigned outside the Department of Defense, the DoD Field Activities, and the other DoD activities not specifically designated as “an employing DoD Component.”

(3) The Defense Agencies (except the DARPA and the DSAA) are the employing DoD Components for civilian and military personnel assigned to duty with them.

d. Foreign Government. Includes any unit of foreign governmental authority (including any foreign national, State, local, and municipal government) or any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of the agents or representatives of any of these foreign governments.

e. Outstanding or Unusually Meritorious Performance. Performance of duty determined by the employing DoD Component to have contributed to an unusually significant degree toward the furtherance of good relations between the United States and the foreign government tendering the decoration. That requires that the service be of national significance to the foreign government and that it be performed under exceptionally difficult, extraordinary, or hazardous conditions.

2. As used in this Chapter, the following responsibilities apply:

a. The **ASD(FMP)** shall develop policy and provide guidance regarding the acceptance, retention, and wearing of decorations offered by foreign governments.

b. The Assistant Secretaries of Defense (International Security Affairs and International Security Policy) shall make recommendations to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy as they pertain to the acceptance and retention of foreign decorations. That shall include, when appropriate, a recommendation from the Department Of State.

c. The Heads of the DoD Components, or their designees, shall:

(1) Approve or disapprove employee acceptance of decorations from foreign governments for employees, units, or activities of their DoD Component. This authority may be delegated. However, if the recipient of the decoration is in fact the Head of the DoD Component the approval or disapproval determination must be deferred to the **ASD(FMP)**.

(2) Implement procedures in section D., below, to comply with policies pertaining to the acceptance, retention, and wearing of decorations offered by foreign governments.

d. The DA&M, OSD, shall implement sections of this chapter for OSD civilian and military personnel, as defined in subsection B. 1., above.

3. Prior Congressional Consent. Congressional authority has been given to the Armed Forces of the United States to accept decorations proffered by friendly foreign governments in recognition of service performed during the periods indicated in paragraphs B .3.a. through B.3.d., below. However, the decorations must have been presented and accepted by the intended recipient before the expiration date of the applicable law.

a. World War II -- December 7, 1941, through July 24, 1948 (Pub. L. No. 80-134 (1947)), reference (ee)).

b. Berlin Airlift -- June 26, 1948, through September 20, 1951 (Pub. L. No. 81-503 (1950)), reference (ff)).

c. Korean Conflict -- June 27, 1950, through July 27, 1955 (Pub. L. No. 83-354 (1953)), reference (gg)).

d. Vietnam Era -- March 1, 1961, through March 28, 1974 (Pub. L. No. 89-257 (1965)), reference (hh)).

### C. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS

1. The provisions of Section 7342, title 5, U.S.C. (reference (cc)) apply to the following:

a. All members of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty and all civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

b. All members of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States, whether or not on active duty.

c. All retired members of the Regular Armed Forces of the United States who are entitled to pay.

d. A member of the family and household of military and civilian personnel designated in paragraphs C. 1.a. through C. 1.c., above, and **all** spouses (unless legally separated) and their dependents, as defined in Section 152, title 26, U.S.C. (reference (ii)).

2. The provisions of reference (ii), however, do not apply to the following:

a. Foreign decorations presented or awarded posthumously to a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

b. Foreign decorations awarded for services while the recipient was a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, provided the award was made before employment of the recipient by the U.S. Government.

c. Foreign decorations in the nature of individual skill badges, awards, or similar devices presented as a result of exemplary participation in official military exchange programs.

d. Decorations for service in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) accepted on or after March 1, 1961, but no later than March 28, 1974.

3. A decoration from a multilateral organization other than the U.N. may be accepted only with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, in accordance with E.O. 11446 (reference (jj)).

4. A decoration accepted without approval by the employing DoD Component shall become the property of the United States and shall be reported as a gift. Decorations that become the property of the United States and are not retained by the employing DoD Component shall be reported to the General Services Administration as excess personal property under the procedures established in DoD Directive 1005.13, "Gifts from Foreign Governments," (reference (old)).

#### D. PROCEDURES

1. Normally, senior representatives of the Government of the United States are notified initially by representatives of a foreign government of the intent to proffer a decoration to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. At that point, a determination shall be made by the employing DoD Component as to whether acceptance is authorized.

2. If the intended recipient receives the initial notification, he or she must notify the employing DoD Component to determine whether acceptance is authorized. Circumstances may arise where an advance authorization cannot be made and, in such cases, Service members may make token acceptance of a foreign decoration, presented by or for a friendly foreign government. However, such token acceptance does not constitute an official acceptance, which may only be authorized by the Service member's employing DoD Component.

3. Regardless of whether the Service member receives the initial notification or makes token acceptance of a decoration, the Service member must immediately submit a request through command channels requesting permission to accept the decoration. Failure to request permission to accept, retain, or wear the decoration shall result in the decoration becoming the property of the United States and shall be deposited by the recipient with his or her employing DoD Component for disposal, as prescribed by law. Requests to accept, retain, or wear the decoration shall contain at a minimum the following:

a. Full name, grade, and social security number.

b. Title of decoration, country offering it, date and place of presentation, and name and title of person making the presentation.

c. Recipient's organization and station, and a brief description of the duty assignment during the period being recognized by the decoration.

d. A statement of the service for which the decoration was awarded. Enclose a copy of the citation if one accompanied the decoration; if not, indicate in the request that no citation accompanied the decoration. (Attach a translation if the citation is not in English.)

#### E. FOREIGN SERVICE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

1. The following **non-U.S.** service medals have been authorized for acceptance as indicated:

a. Philippine Defense Ribbon. (A full size medal is now available from the Philippine Government for this award.)

(1) Awarded for combat service in the defense of the Philippines from December 8, 1941, to June 15, 1942, if the Service member was:

(a) A member of the **Bataan** or Manila Bay Forces or of a unit, ship, or airplane under enemy attack.

(b) Assigned or stationed in the Philippine territories or waters for at least 30 calendar days during the period indicated in subparagraph E. 1 a.(1), above.

(2) A Service member who meets both conditions cited in subparagraph E.1.a.(1), above, is authorized to wear a bronze star on the service ribbon.

b. Philippine Liberation Ribbon. (A full size medal is now available from the Philippine Government for this award.)

(1) Awarded for participation in the liberation of the Philippines from October 17, 1944, to September 3, 1945, if the Service member did the following:

(a) Participated in the initial landing operations on Leyte or adjoining islands from October 17, 1944 to October 20, 1944. Service members are considered to have participated in such operations if they landed on Leyte or the adjoining islands, were on a ship in the waters of the Philippines, or a crew member of an airplane that flew over Philippine territories during the period indicated.

(b) Participated in any engagement against enemy forces during the campaign on Leyte and the adjoining islands. Service members are considered to have participated in such operations if they were assigned to **ground**, naval, or air units actually under enemy attack.

(c) Served in the Philippine Islands or aboard ships in the waters of the Philippines for at least 30 calendar days during the period indicated in subparagraph E. 1 b.(1), above. .

(2) Service members who meet two of the conditions in subparagraph E.1 b.(1), above, are authorized to wear a bronze star on the service ribbon. Service members meeting all three conditions shall wear two bronze stars.

c. Philippine Independence Ribbon. (A full size medal is now available from the Philippine Government for this award.) Awarded to Service members who are recipients of both the Philippine Defense and Philippine Liberation ribbons.

d. United Nations Service Medal {Korea}, Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who participated in the U.N. action in Korea and who are also eligible for the Korean Service Medal.

e. United Nations Medal

(1) Authorized by the Secretary General of the U.N. for specific U.N. missions and actions. E.O. 11139 (reference (kk)) authorizes the Secretary of Defense to approve acceptance and wear by U.S. Service members who meet criteria specified by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

(2) United Nations Medal (UNM) is an all **encompassing** term used to describe the basic bronze medallion, with the U.N. emblem and the letters U.N. on the obverse, suspended from a ribbon.

(3) Each U.N. mission or action for which a UNM is awarded is commemorated by a suspension and service ribbon of unique colors and design. The ribbon and medallion combination take on the name of the specific operation for which the combination was created; for example, the operation in the former Republic of Yugoslavia is the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), yielding the UNPROFOR Medal.

(4) Procedures for approval, acceptance and wear of an UNM by U.S. Service members include:

(a) The Secretary General of the U.N. will offer to award a UNM to the Secretary of Defense for U.S. participants in designated U.N. missions or actions, will provide specific award eligibility criteria, and will determine eligibility of individual participants.

(b) The Secretary of Defense is approval authority for acceptance wear of UNM offered for specific U.N. missions or actions. A list of U.N. missions and actions for which the Secretary of Defense has approved acceptance of a UNM by eligible U.S. military participants is at Appendix 1.

(c) If approved by the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Service members who meet the criteria may accept and wear the **first** UNM with unique suspension and service ribbon for which they qualify. To recognize subsequent awards (if approved by the Secretary of Defense) for

service in a different U.N. mission or action, the Service member will affix a bronze service star to the first U.N. suspension and service ribbon awarded.

(d) A UNM will normally be awarded by the Chief of the U.N. Mission to qualifying U.S. Service members prior to their departure from service with the U.N.

f. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who between March 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973:

(1) **Served** for 6 months in South Vietnam during the period indicated in Chapter 6, section E., above.

(2) Served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam and contributed direct combat support to the RVN Armed Forces for an aggregate of six months. Only members of the Armed Forces of the United States who meet the criteria established for the AFEM (Vietnam) or the Vietnam Service Medal during the period of service required are considered to have contributed direct combat support to the RVN Armed Forces.

(3) Did not complete the length of service required in either paragraphs E. 1.f. (1) or E. 1 f.(2), above, but who, during wartime, were:

(a) Wounded by the enemy (in a military action).

(b) Captured by the enemy during action or in the line of duty, but later rescued or released.

(c) Killed in action or in the line of duty.

(4) Were assigned in Vietnam on January 28, 1973, and who served a minimum of 60 calendar days in Vietnam during the period January 29, 1973 to March 28, 1973.

g. Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) Medal and Ribbon. The **IADB** medal and ribbon were authorized by the **Ninety-first** Session of the IADB on December 11, 1945. The Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum (reference (11)), authorized the acceptance and wearing of the IADB medal and ribbon by members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The IADB shall be awarded permanently to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have served on the IADB for at least one year as the Chair of the board, delegates, advisers, officers of the staff, officers of the secretariat, or officers of the Inter-American Defense College. The **IADB** ribbon shall have the same precedence as the United Nations Service Medal, but the IADB ribbon shall rank below the United Nations Service Medal when the wearer has been awarded both decorations. The IADB medal or badge is worn in accordance with Service policy.

h. Multinational Force and Observers Medal. Awarded to -members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after August 3, 1981, have served with the Multinational Force and

Observers for at least 90 cumulative days. Approval for members of the Armed Forces of the United States to accept and wear that medal was granted by the Deputy **Secretary** of Defense Memorandum (reference (mm)).

i. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)

(1) Authorized by the Government of Saudi Arabia to members of the Coalition Forces who participated in Operation DESERT STORM and the liberation of Kuwait. The Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, reference (nn), authorized the acceptance and wearing of the Kuwait Liberation Medal by members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) To be eligible, U.S. military personnel must have:

(a) Served in support of operation DESERT STORM between January 17 and February 28, 1991, in one or more of the following areas:

1 The Persian Gulf;

2 The Red Sea;

3 The Gulf of Oman;

4 That portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude;

5 The Gulf of Aden; or

6 The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

(b) Have been, as follows:

1 Attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground and/or shore operations;

2 Attached to or regularly serving for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations;

3 Actually participating as a crew member in one or more aerial flights supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or

4 Serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.



(3) The Kuwait Liberation Medal may be awarded posthumously.

(4) The Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, of each Service, and the Director, Joint Staff, are authorized to grant exceptions to policy for award of that medal. Since the eligibility period and geographic boundaries were specified by the Government of Saudi Arabia, those criteria may not be waived.

(5) The Kuwait Liberation Medal shall follow the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal in precedence, as in E. 1 f., above.

(6) The Military Departments shall prescribe appropriate regulations for the administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the Kuwait Liberation Medal, ribbon, and appurtenances.

j. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

(1) Authorized by the Government of Kuwait to members of the United States military who participated in Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. The Secretary of Defense Memorandum (reference (00)) authorized the acceptance and wearing of the Kuwait Liberation Medal (K) by members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(2) To be eligible, U.S. military personnel must have:

(a) Served in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM between August 2, 1990 and August 31, 1993, in one or more of the following areas:

1 The Arabian Gulf;

2 The Red Sea;

3 The Gulf of Oman;

4 That portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude;

5 The Gulf of Aden; or

6 The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

(b) Have been, as follows:

1 Attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground and/or shore operations;

2 Attached to or regularly serving for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations;

3 Actually participating as a crew member in one or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or

4 Serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

(3) The Kuwait Liberation Medal may be awarded posthumously.

(4) The Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, of each Service, and the Director, Joint Staff, are authorized to grant exceptions to policy for award of Kuwait Liberation Medal (K). Since the eligibility period and geographic boundaries were specified by the Government of Kuwait, those criteria may not be waived.

(5) The Kuwait Liberation Medal (K) shall follow the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the government of Saudi Arabia in precedence, as in paragraph E. 1 i., above.

(6) The Military Departments shall prescribe appropriate regulations for the administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the medal, ribbon, and appurtenances,

k. NATO Medal

(1) Authorized by the Secretary General of NATO for specific NATO operations. In accordance with Executive Order 11446 (reference (jj)), the Secretary of Defense, with concurrence of the Secretary of State, may approve acceptance and wear by U.S. Service members who meet criteria specified by the Secretary General of NATO.

(2) Acceptance of the NATO Medal has been approved for U.S. military personnel who serve under NATO command or operational control in direct support of NATO operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, or as designated by SACEUR, from 1 July 1992 through a future date to be determined.

(3) The NATO Medal shall have the same precedence as the United Nations Medal, but shall rank immediately below the United Nations Medal when the wearer has been awarded both decorations.

(4) The NATO medal presentation set received from a NATO representative may include a ribbon clasp denoting the specific operation for which the award was made. U.S. Service members are authorized to retain the ribbon clasp if presented; however, the wearing of

ribbon clasps with the NATO medal or service ribbon is not authorized for U.S. Service members. U.S. Service members may wear only the basic medal or service ribbon.

(5) To recognize subsequent awards (if approved by the Secretary of Defense) for service in a different NATO operation, U.S. Service members will affix a bronze service star to the NATO Medal suspension ribbon and service ribbon.

(6) The NATO Medal will normally be presented by the Allied Command Europe headquarters exercising operational command or control over U.S. military units or individuals prior to their departure from service with NATO.

2. The following **non-U.S.** ribbons have been authorized for wear, as indicated:

a. **Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation.** For service in defense and liberation of the Philippines during World War II. Also subsequently awarded to Army, Navy, and Marine Corps units for selected disaster relief operations.

b. **Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.** For service in Korea from June 27, 1950 to **July** 27, 1953.

c. **Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation.** For humanitarian assistance given during August-September 1954 in evacuation of civilians from North and Central Vietnam.

d. **Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.** Awarded by the RVN to units for valorous combat achievements.

e. **Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation.** Awarded by the RVN to units in recognition of meritorious civil action service.